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A letter, dated 19 March 1951, from the Soviet Sector Magistrate of Gross-Berlin, Main Department for Industrial Production, 55/56 Charlottenstrasse, Berlin W 8, to the Deputy Minister President Heinrich Rau, 5/7 Leipzigerstrasse, Berlin W 1, dealt with the critical material supply of the Transformer and High Tension Switch (TRO) Plant at 83/85 Wilhelmshofstrasse, Berlin-Oberschoeneweide, during the first quarter of 1951. \*

\* **Comment:** For translation of this letter, see Annex.

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Magistrate Gross Berlin

Wi.HA Ind.Prod.A/51

A/Ko

Berlin W 8, 19 March 1951  
Charlottenstrasse 55/56

Telephone 42 00 11

To the Deputy Minister President

Heinrich Rau

(1) Berlin W 1

Leipzigerstrasse 5/7

Subject: Transformer and High Tension Switch (TRO) Plant  
at 83/85 Wilhelminenhofstrasse in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide -  
Material supply situation for the First Quarter of 1951

This report is submitted because of the serious material supply situation of the subject VEB Plant. The delivery of materials allocated to the VEB TRO is very slow. The most critical items are transformer sheets and copper wire for windings. The slow delivery of transformer sheets is due to the shutdown of the Thale Rolling Mill which was caused by the breakdown of the turbines. For this reason the quota set for the first quarter of 1951 cannot be achieved unless there are sizable imports. Also the quota of copper wire cannot be fulfilled, because the allocation of the approximately (40 hours per month) of the production of the Hettstedt Rolling Mill granted to the VEB TRO Plant will not be sufficient. The Thale Plant cannot deliver transformer sheets before the beginning of March because it must also roll the open-hearth thin sheets needed by the TRO Plant. The production of heavy plates is complicated because the individual rolling mills cannot obtain the required raw materials. The delivery dates indicated by the various rolling mills for rod steel are between February and April 1951. The extremely bad material supply situation has considerably affected the sales of this VEB Plant. The plant will have trouble liquidating its debts unless drastic measures are taken to increase its sales. Letters emphasizing the difficulties of the plant with regard to the supply of transformer sheets were sent by the VEB TRO Plant to the following agencies on 15 November 1950: Mr. Grosse, (fnu), manager of the Main Administration for Machine Construction and Electrical Engineering: Ministry of

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Industry, attention Mr. Stolle, (fnu); the Reparation Office and the SCC. At that time the TRO Plant already had a deficit of 391.8 tons of transformer sheets which made it doubtful that they could meet their quota under the Five-Year Plan. All these letters, including a letter sent recently to the Ministry of Machine Construction, attention Mr. Friedel, (fnu), have remained unanswered.

A list is attached regarding the deliveries of the most important materials for the first quarter of 1951. This list shows that only about 20 percent of the allocations have actually been delivered as of 26 February 1951. To forestall an imminent production collapse it is requested that the following recommendations be considered:

1. After the Thale Ironworks has resumed production, steps must be taken to insure immediate and regular deliveries of transformer sheets.
2. Arrangements should be made to enable the Thale Ironworks to be supplied with raw materials for the production of transformer sheets.
3. The employees of the Thale Ironworks should be convinced of the importance of the transformer sheet production and should be called upon, by way of a special pledge, to intensify their efforts with a view to increasing the transformer sheet production and to speeding up the shipment of finished sheets.
4. The imports of transformer sheets must be effected. It is known that transformer sheets are produced in the U.S.S.R., Poland and in Czechoslovakia. Attempts should be made to obtain sheets from these friendly countries on a first priority basis. In the past year Poland offered substantial amounts of transformer sheets 1.4 - 1.5 Wv (sic).
5. The DAHA must with the least possible amount of red tape attempt to overcome difficulties regarding payment and price, still pending negotiations, for the import of transformer sheets from the West.
6. Immediate measures should be taken to increase the Soviet Zone transformer sheet productive capacity.

The VEB TRO Plant is an important enterprise in the Five-Year Plan, because it is required to meet only one reparation order. In 1951 the VEB TRO Plant must deliver transformers to the Polish economy. Our Deputy Minister President Walter Ulbricht has given special assurances for the fulfillment of this order. Another very important order was placed by Czechoslovakia. Further

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deliveries are to be made to the Electrolysis Project in Bitterfeld and to a first priority enterprise, the Ironworks Combine East. The deadlines for these deliveries are May, June, July and August 1951.

In the past year the VEB TRO Plant was in a similar plight. Only 88 percent of the schedule could then be fulfilled and this was achieved at an exorbitant cost. Therefore, in 1951 all responsible agencies were reminded of these shortcomings and recommendations were submitted to prevent the repetition of the same difficulties.

This report is submitted in the interest of the fulfilment of the 1951 economic plan and with the request that measures immediately be taken to ease the critical material supply situation of the VEB TRO Plant in the first quarter of 1951.

signed by the Magistrate of  
the Soviet Sector of Gross-Berlin

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VEB Plant for the Production of Transformers and High Tension Switches at 83/85 Wilhelminenhofstrasse in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide.

List of the most important materials required to meet the schedule for the first quarter of 1951, together with the allocations and deliveries of these materials.

| Designation of item                           | Requirements scheduled for the first quarter of 1951 | Quotas allocated up to 26 Febr 1951 | Deliveries as of 26 Febr 1951 |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Prof.U-I to NP 18 (sic)                       | 49.4   | 104.- tons                          | 10.9 tons                     |
| Prof.U-I over NP 18 (sic)                     | 62.4   | 33.- tons                           |                               |
| Fine rod steel                                | 17.9   | 18.650 tons                         | 6.463 tons                    |
| Thick rod steel                               | 229.1  | 146.220 tons                        | 41.961 tons                   |
| Steel strips, hot-rolled                      | 11.2   | 13.140 tons                         |                               |
| Thin sheet 0.9 to below 3                     | 172.-  | 200.- tons                          |                               |
| Medium sheets 3 to below 5                    | 66.1   | 35.- tons                           | 4.- tons                      |
| Heavy plates and Breitfl.St. (sic)            | 403.7  | 359.- tons                          | 54.405 tons                   |
| Thin sheets below 0.9 mm                      | 2.8  | 5.9 tons                            |                               |
| Drawing sheets (Ziehbleche) size V and IV     | 1.5  | 5.- tons                            |                               |
| Drawing sheets (Ziehbleche) size VII to IX    | 12.22  | 15.- tons                           |                               |
| Transformer sheets                            | 1,094.8  | 962.- tons                          | 86.160 tons                   |
| Free cutting steel (Automatenstahl)           | 37.8   | 22.9 tons                           | 1.864 tons                    |
| Rod steel, drawn                              | 100.8  | 92.- tons                           | 23.410 tons                   |
| Steel strip, bright-rolled (bl.gew.Bandstahl) | 67.4   | 76.- tons                           | 40.- tons                     |
| Pipes   | 138.4  | 56.950 tons                         | 1.010 tons                    |
| Miscellaneous alloyed rod steel               |  |                                     |                               |
| Machine construction steel                    | 0.8  | 3.- tons                            |                               |

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| Designation of item        | Requirements scheduled for the first quarter of 1951 | Quotas allocated up to 26 Febr 1951 | Deliveries as of 26 Febr 1951 |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Stainless rod steel        | 2.6  |                                     |                               |
| Lacquer and dynamo wire    | 387.-  | 310.- tons                          | 98.915 tons                   |
| Copper bars                | 28.19  | 15.- tons                           | 10.112 tons                   |
| Copper sheet and bands     | 8.94   | 16.6 tons                           | 3.566 tons                    |
| Copper tubes               | 4.79   | 5.8 tons                            | 1.573 tons                    |
| Brass sheets and bands     | 7.19   | 7.- tons                            | 0.291 tons                    |
| Brass bars                 | 11.63  | 5.- tons                            |                               |
| Brass tubes                | 3.94   | 0.750 tons                          |                               |
| Transformer oil            | 727.9  | 402.- tons                          | 362.5 tons                    |
| Table and insulating paper | 38.-   | 14.- tons                           | 10.148 tons                   |
| Bin-parts (Din-Teile)      | 31.144   | 14.9 tons                           | 0.621 tons                    |

to, 27 February 1951  
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